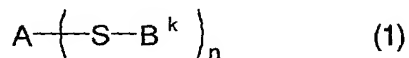


CLAIMS

1. An optical material comprising at least one aromatic sulfide compound represented by the following formula (1):



wherein

n stands for an integer of from 2 to 12,

k stands for an integer of from 1 to n,

A represents a substituted or unsubstituted, n-valent carbocyclic aromatic ring or heterocyclic aromatic ring, and

B¹ to Bⁿ each independently represent a substituted or unsubstituted, carbocyclic aromatic group or heterocyclic aromatic group.

2. An optical material according to claim 1, wherein in formula (1), n stands for an integer of from 2 to 4, and A is a substituted or unsubstituted, heterocyclic aromatic ring.

3. An optical material according to claim 2, wherein in formula (1), B¹ to Bⁿ each independently are a substituted or unsubstituted phenyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted pyrimidyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted naphthyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted thienyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted benzothiazolyl group, a substituted or

unsubstituted benzoxazolyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted thiadiazolyl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted thiazolyl group.

4. An optical material according to claim 2,
5 wherein in formula (1), A is a divalent heterocyclic aromatic ring selected from a substituted or unsubstituted thiophene ring, a substituted or unsubstituted thiophene-1,1-dioxide ring, a substituted or unsubstituted thiophenethiadiazole ring, a substituted
10 or unsubstituted thieno[3,2,-b]thiophene ring, a substituted or unsubstituted triazine ring, or a substituted or unsubstituted pyrimidine ring.

5. An optical material according to claim 4,
15 wherein in formula (1), B¹ to Bⁿ each independently are a substituted or unsubstituted phenyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted pyrimidyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted naphthyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted thienyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted benzothiazolyl group, a substituted or
20 unsubstituted benzoxazolyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted thiadiazolyl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted thiazolyl group.

6. An optical material according to claim 2,
25 wherein in formula (1), A is a trivalent heterocyclic aromatic ring selected from a substituted or unsubstituted thiophene ring, a substituted or

unsubstituted triazine ring, or a substituted or unsubstituted pyrimidine ring.

7. An optical material according to claim 6, wherein in formula (1), B^1 to B^n each independently are a substituted or unsubstituted phenyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted pyrimidyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted naphthyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted thienyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted benzothiazolyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted benzoxazolyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted thiadiazolyl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted thiazolyl group.

8. An optical material according to claim 2, wherein in formula (1), A is a tetravalent heterocyclic aromatic ring selected from a substituted or unsubstituted thiophene ring or a substituted or unsubstituted thieno[3,2,-b]thiophene ring.

9. An optical material according to claim 8, wherein in formula (1), B^1 to B^n each independently are a substituted or unsubstituted phenyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted pyrimidyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted naphthyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted thienyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted benzothiazolyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted benzoxazolyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted thiadiazolyl group, or a substituted or

unsubstituted thiazolyl group.

10. An optical material according to claim 1,
wherein in formula (1), n stands for an integer of from 2
to 6, and A is a substituted or unsubstituted,
5 carbocyclic aromatic ring.

11. An optical material according to claim 10,
wherein in formula (1), B¹ to Bⁿ each independently are a
substituted or unsubstituted phenyl group, a substituted
or unsubstituted pyrimidyl group, a substituted or
10 unsubstituted naphthyl group, a substituted or
unsubstituted thienyl group, a substituted or
unsubstituted benzothiazolyl group, a substituted or
unsubstituted benzoxazolyl group, a substituted or
unsubstituted thiadiazolyl group, or a substituted or
15 unsubstituted thiazolyl group.

12. An optical material according to claim 10,
wherein in formula (1), A is a divalent carbocyclic
aromatic ring selected from a substituted or
unsubstituted benzene ring, a substituted or
20 unsubstituted naphthalene ring, a substituted or
unsubstituted fluorene ring, or a substituted or
unsubstituted biphenyl group.

13. An optical material according to claim 12,
wherein in formula (1), B¹ to Bⁿ each independently are a
25 substituted or unsubstituted phenyl group, a substituted
or unsubstituted pyrimidyl group, a substituted or

unsubstituted naphthyl group, a substituted or
unsubstituted thienyl group, a substituted or
unsubstituted benzothiazolyl group, a substituted or
unsubstituted benzoxazolyl group, a substituted or
5 unsubstituted thiadiazolyl group, or a substituted or
unsubstituted thiazolyl group.

14. An optical material according to claim 10,
wherein in formula (1), A is a trivalent carbocyclic
aromatic ring selected from a substituted or
10 unsubstituted benzene ring or a substituted or
unsubstituted fluorene ring.

15. An optical material according to claim 14,
wherein in formula (1), B¹ to Bⁿ each independently are a
substituted or unsubstituted phenyl group, a substituted
15 or unsubstituted pyrimidyl group, a substituted or
unsubstituted naphthyl group, a substituted or
unsubstituted thienyl group, a substituted or
unsubstituted benzothiazolyl group, a substituted or
unsubstituted benzoxazolyl group, a substituted or
20 unsubstituted thiadiazolyl group, or a substituted or
unsubstituted thiazolyl group.

16. An optical material according to claim 10,
wherein in formula (1), A is a tetravalent carbocyclic
aromatic ring selected from a substituted or
25 unsubstituted benzene ring or a substituted or
unsubstituted biphenyl group.

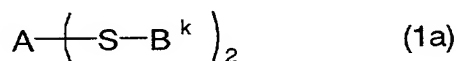
17. An optical material according to claim 16,
 wherein in formula (1), B¹ to Bⁿ each independently is a
 substituted or unsubstituted phenyl group, a substituted
 or unsubstituted pyrimidyl group, a substituted or
 5 unsubstituted naphthyl group, a substituted or
 unsubstituted thienyl group, a substituted or
 unsubstituted benzothiazolyl group, a substituted or
 unsubstituted benzoxazolyl group, a substituted or
 unsubstituted thiadiazolyl group, or a substituted or
 10 unsubstituted thiazolyl group.

18. An optical material according to claims 1 to
 17, which is a polymer optical fiber material.

19. An optical part comprising a polymer optical
 fiber material according to claim 18.

15 20. An optical part according to claim 19, which
 is a GI polymer optical fiber.

21. An aromatic sulfide compound represented by
 the following formula (1a):



20 wherein

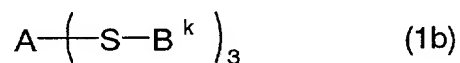
k stands for an integer of from 1 to 2,

A represents a divalent carbocyclic aromatic ring
 or heterocyclic aromatic ring selected from a substituted
 or unsubstituted benzene ring, a substituted or
 25 unsubstituted naphthalene ring, a substituted or

unsubstituted fluorene ring, a substituted or
 unsubstituted biphenyl ring, a substituted or
 unsubstituted thiophene ring, a substituted or
 unsubstituted thiophene-1,1-dioxide ring, a substituted
 5 or unsubstituted thiophenethiadiazole ring, a substituted
 or unsubstituted thieno[3,2,-b]thiophene ring, a
 substituted or unsubstituted triazine ring, or a
 substituted or unsubstituted pyrimidine ring, and

B¹ to Bⁿ each independently represent a carbocyclic
 10 aromatic group or heterocyclic aromatic group selected
 from a substituted or unsubstituted phenyl group, a
 substituted or unsubstituted pyrimidyl group, a
 substituted or unsubstituted naphthyl group, a
 substituted or unsubstituted thienyl group, a substituted
 15 or unsubstituted benzothiazolyl group, a substituted or
 unsubstituted benzoxazolyl group, a substituted or
 unsubstituted thiadiazolyl group, or a substituted or
 unsubstituted thiazolyl group.

22. An aromatic sulfide compound represented by
 20 the following formula (1b):



wherein

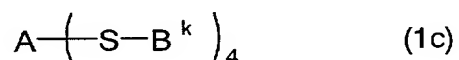
k stands for an integer of from 1 to 3,

A represents a trivalent carbocyclic aromatic ring
 25 or heterocyclic aromatic ring selected from a substituted

or unsubstituted benzene ring, a substituted or
 unsubstituted fluorene ring, a substituted or
 unsubstituted thiophene ring, a substituted or
 unsubstituted triazine ring, or a substituted or
 5 unsubstituted pyrimidine ring, and

B¹, B² and B³ each independently represent a
 carbocyclic aromatic group or heterocyclic aromatic group
 selected from a substituted or unsubstituted phenyl
 group, a substituted or unsubstituted pyrimidyl group, a
 10 substituted or unsubstituted naphthyl group, a
 substituted or unsubstituted thienyl group, a substituted
 or unsubstituted benzothiazolyl group, a substituted or
 unsubstituted benzoxazolyl group, a substituted or
 unsubstituted thiadiazolyl group, or a substituted or
 15 unsubstituted thiazolyl group.

23. An aromatic sulfide compound represented by
 the following formula (1c):



wherein

20 k stands for an integer of from 1 to 4,

A represents a carbocyclic aromatic ring or
 heterocyclic aromatic ring selected from a substituted or
 unsubstituted benzene ring, a substituted or
 unsubstituted biphenyl ring, a substituted or
 25 unsubstituted thiophene ring, a substituted or

unsubstituted thieno[3,2,-b]thiophene ring, and

B¹, B², B³ and B⁴ each independently represent a carbocyclic aromatic group or heterocyclic aromatic group selected from a substituted or unsubstituted phenyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted pyrimidyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted naphthyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted thienyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted benzothiazolyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted benzoxazolyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted thiadiazolyl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted thiazolyl group.

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